

Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC)

Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

Virginia Emergency Response Team (VERT)

SEVERE WEATHER April 28 2008

SITUATION REPORT # 5

0800 Hours May 1, 2008

The next Situation Report will be May 2, 2008 at 0800 hours.

SUMMARY

In the afternoon hours of April 28 a storm system moving across the Commonwealth generated rain, wind and tornadoes. **National Weather Service (NWS) updated their count of confirmed tornadoes to a total of 8; two EF 0 tornadoes - Gloucester and Mathews Counties, five EF1 tornadoes in the City of Colonial Heights and the counties of Brunswick, Surry, Isle of Wight, and Halifax.** In addition, NWS confirmed an EF3 tornado in the City of Suffolk. The Virginia Emergency Operations Center continues to receive reports of storm related damage from these jurisdictions and state agencies. Multiple injuries reported but no storm related deaths reported. Visual graphics are available at: [Suffolk radar indicated tornado](#); [Brunswick radar indicated tornado](#).

EXECUTIVE ACTION

EOC Activation: The Virginia VEOC is at Response Operations with limited additional staffing. **The VDEM Technical Support Unit (TSU) that deployed to Suffolk Fire Station #3 demobilized on 29 April.**

State of Emergency: At 1855 hours 28 April, Governor Kaine declared a state of emergency for the severe weather that impacted the Commonwealth. Governor Kaine visited Suffolk on 29 April.

Federal Declaration: No declaration has been requested at this time. FEMA Region III deployed a State Liaison Officer to the State EOC on 28 April. **The ERT-A Team is on site at the VEOC including Public Assistance and Individual Assistance staff from the Region III Disaster Assistance Division. Small Business Administration (SBA) – Disaster Assistance contact will be working in both Colonial Heights and Suffolk.**

Protective Actions: Local Emergency Declared:
City of Suffolk declared a local emergency at 1625 hours 28 April.
Colonial Heights declared a local emergency at 1555 hours 28 April.
Isle of Wight declared a local emergency at 0830 hours 29 April.
Brunswick County declared a local emergency at 0930 hours 29 April.

Local Emergency Operations Center Activated:
City of Norfolk 28 April at 1650 Hours on behalf of City of Suffolk. City of Norfolk closed at 1918 hours as City of Suffolk communications were restored.
City of Suffolk Open.

ESF 15 – External Affairs: Fielding local, national and international media inquiries. Providing public information and awareness for tornado and disaster preparedness and promoting cash donations for casualties of the recent Virginia tornadoes. **Coordinating press releases with various agencies to include a Press Release from Virginia Department of Taxation reference tax relief granted for victims of the tornadoes.** [Tax Relief Granted for Victims of Tornadoes](#)

WEATHER

Forecast: Thursday, May 1, 2008: Mostly sunny; high temperatures upper 60's to low 80's; winds 5-15 MPH with gusts up to 25 MPH in Southwest VA. Thursday Night: Partly cloudy; low temperatures low to mid 50's; winds 5-10 MPH. Friday, May 2, 2008: Partly cloudy with a chance of showers and thunderstorms in Southwest and Northwest Virginia; high temperatures upper 70's to low 80's; winds 5-15 MPH with gusts up to 20 MPH in Southwest Virginia. .

OPERATIONS SECTION

Local Liaison:

Region 1 Coordinator Wills assisted National Weather Service with flyovers of impacted localities on 29 May. Region 3 Coordinator Cocker completed damage assessment and storm survey with Halifax County Emergency Management and NWS Blacksburg on 29 May. Region 2 Coordinator Sterling assisted City of Suffolk and Region 5 Coordinator Twigg on 29 May. Region 5 Coordinator Twigg remains on scene assisting City of Suffolk.

EMERGENCY SERVICES BRANCH

ESF 9 – Search and Rescue Request for SAR cadaver dog teams to do sweeps of debris and damaged homes was completed 29 April with negative results. Civil Air Patrol completed two air missions one with NWS, VDEM Regional Coordinator, and local officials. The other involved taking digital images of affected areas. All Civil Air Patrol (CAP) flyover missions have been completed as of 1830 hours, 29 April and are back at base. Aerial photos will be sent to the VDEM SAR Coordinator for evaluation.

ESF 8 – Public Health and Medical Services:

Virginia Department of Health (VDH)

Western Tidewater Health District (WTHD) staff at Suffolk EOC. VDH WTHD and local Red Cross activated to open shelters. Both Peninsula and Southside Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS) Strike Teams released.

VDH reported patient treatment and admissions as of 1030 hours 30 April:

City of Colonial Heights – approximately 20 treated and released

Sentara Obici Hospital – 70 patients treated, 3 admitted – current condition “improving”

BonSecours Maryview – 3 patients treated and released

BonSecours Harborview Health Center – 3 treated, 1 admitted – current condition “improving”

Southampton Memorial Hospital – 2 treated and released

Approximately 122 patients treated by local Emergency Medical Service, physicians’ offices and emergent care centers

Local Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) has been activated. Currently developing a re-entry plan for all residents to enter their homes.

ESF 13 – Public Safety and Security:

Virginia State Police (VSP)

VSP Division 1 has 12 troopers assisting Suffolk Police Department with traffic detours. In addition, 54 tactical field force troopers staged at Suffolk Scale. Division 1 supplied 40 troopers and Division 3 supplied 16 troopers in relief at 1000 hours 29 April. Sgt. Kevin Barrick relieved the Suffolk City Public Information Officer at 0400 hours 29 April.

HUMAN SERVICES BRANCH

ESF 14 – Long-term Community Recovery

Initial Damage Assessment Reports:

<u>Locality</u>	<u>Private</u>	<u>Public</u>
Colonial Heights, City of	\$2,000,000	\$0
Halifax County	\$500,000	\$0
Isle of Wight County	\$184,000	\$0
Portsmouth	\$60,000	\$0
Suffolk, City of	\$22,034,200	\$250,000
Brunswick County	\$650,000	\$0
Total	\$25,428,200	\$250,000

The Commonwealth of Virginia began conducting Joint Preliminary Damage Assessments (PDA) for selected disaster impacted areas on 1 May. A Disaster Response Center will be opening at 1000 hrs 1 May in the City of Suffolk

Recreation Center located at Kings Fork Middle School. Hours of operation will be 1000 hrs – 2000 hrs through at least Sunday, 4 May.

ESF 17 – Volunteers and Donations

Virginia Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD) conference call was held on 29 April at 1700 hours. The following are highlights from the call: Operation Blessing reported providing 300 meals at the request of the American Red Cross on 29 April for emergency workers and responders. The Southern Conservatives have 6 debris/chain saw teams on standby to respond on 30 April to assist with debris removal. Baptist General Convention has child care teams on standby. The Salvation Army has 3 canteens operational. The Convoy of Hope is deploying teams to Suffolk to assist with debris removal. The United Methodist Conference volunteers are working with feeding stations and will continue through the week.

The United Way of South Hampton Roads is coordinating all volunteer efforts regarding the tornado response. The Food Bank of Southeastern Virginia delivered two truckloads of food to Suffolk.

The American Red Cross ARC Southside Chapter is providing food at the Southpark Mall primarily to first responders. Many donations have been collected from surrounding churches, Wal-Mart, and local restaurants. Approximately 200 meals were served, 28 April and approximately 100 meals were prepared for 29 April. Three Emergency Response Vehicles responded 28 April. No ARC shelter has been opened or anticipated. A service center has been set up in Brunswick County to begin casework. ***A service center will be opening in Suffolk, location and hours of operation to be determined.*** Still waiting for additional disaster assessment information to determine anticipated casework needs. Suffolk County Chapter and Southeast Virginia Chapter Teams doing damage assessments. Identifying feeding site to provide meals today with VOAD partners. Currently working with Mercy Chefs and Operations Blessing and surrounding churches. Planning to feed more than 500 people. Shelter at Kings Fork High School housed 51 people 28 April. Those wishing to make donations please see the Virginia Department of Emergency Management website at www.vaemergency.com, "How You Can Help."

INFRASTRUCTURE BRANCH

ESF 1 – Transportation: Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)
VDOT reported as of 1000 hours 30 April all roads reopened.

ESF 12 – Energy: ***As of 0730 hours 1 May, Dominion Virginia Power reported power restored to all impacted areas.***

LOGISTICS SECTION

ESF 7 – Resource Support VDEM is supporting four active resource requests. Four requests have been completed and 3 requests have been cancelled. All localities have been given access to the State Emergency Services contract.

PLANNING SECTION

ESF 5 – Situation Unit ***Preparing daily Situational Reports, monitoring WebEOC entries and maintaining situational awareness***

Plans Unit Governor's Executive Order drafted and submitted

Mapping/GIS Unit ***Providing support to localities and state agencies***

LOCAL ACTIVITIES

City of Suffolk: Sentara Obici Hospital reported to be fully operational with some minor damage. Region 5 Coordinator Twigg remains on scene. There are 407 homes total that have

been tagged as damaged. ***Jurisdiction shelter at Kings Fork High school closed as of 1000 hours 30 April. As of 0930 hours 30 April, all roads are now open. All schools opened as of 1 May.*** A 6 station call center has been established for citizen calls at the City Recreational Department. Donations are being channeled through the Red Cross. Tetanus vaccines are being provided by the local public health agency for responders and some others. ***Over 750 citizens attended the Community Information Meeting held on 30 April to discuss debris issues, insurance issues and future recovery efforts. A Disaster Response Center will be opening at 1000 hrs 1 May in the City of Suffolk Recreation Center located at Kings Fork Middle School. Hours of operation will be 1000 hrs – 2000 hrs through at least Sunday, 4 May.***

Suffolk Animal Control provided a Hotline information number for missing/found animals (Suffolk Dispatch at **757-409-7729**). An emergency trailer with 24 trained staff is co-located with Humane Society of the United States at Suffolk Animal Control with 60 cages for missing/found animals. All animals will be “microchip” scanned. ***Virginia Beach SPCA has returned to Virginia Beach. No more animal feed is needed for donations.***

- York County:*** The Hampton Roads Metropolitan Medical System (MMRS) Strike Team was requested by the City of Suffolk to assist with tornado related medical needs. This response includes the activation of both the Southside Logistics Cache (City of Norfolk) and the Peninsula Logistics Cache (York County) and the Peninsula Communications Cache (York County). All units responded.
- City of Chesapeake:*** Deployed five engines, one ladder truck, one tactical rescue vehicle, a Battalion Chief, three Medic units and an EMS officer to the City of Suffolk under mutual aid. HazMat 5 is currently serving as mobile command post in City of Suffolk.
- City of Colonial Heights:*** Major damage reported in and around the Southpark Mall area estimated at \$2,000,000.
- Isle of Wight County:*** Fourteen homes were reported with minor to moderate damage with total cost damage assessment of \$184,000.
- Halifax County:*** Region 3 Coordinator Cocker assisted NWS Blacksburg and local Emergency Management with storm survey and confirmed an EF1 tornado caused major damage to two homes, minor damage to one home and slight damage to three homes. All homes were insured. Four sheds were observed to have major damage or be destroyed.
- Brunswick County:*** Region I Coordinator Wills reported that the flyover was completed and NWS Wakefield confirmed an EF1 tornado touched down with wind between 86-100 MPH. It had a 1 mile path that was 250 yards wide. Initial Damage Assessment conducted by Local Emergency Management Officials evening of 28 April. 14 homes have been damaged and the estimate of damage is \$650,000. Displaced individuals are being put in hotels.
- City of Portsmouth:*** Reports of minor damage in the Churchland (northeastern) section of the city. Four members deployed as part of the MMRS Strike Team. Portsmouth Amateur Radio-ES (PARES) deployed 9 members to Suffolk. City is currently working on damage assessment.
- City of Newport News:*** Providing 40 police officers (2 shifts of 20 officers) to the City of Suffolk. Officers have been deployed from Newport News to Suffolk in support of emergency operations.
- James City County:*** ***10 homes impacted, with one residence uninhabitable. Estimated damage totaling \$217,000.***

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